

Message Text

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APPROVED BY S/S - MR. LUERS

EUR:JAARMITAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS STATE 210675

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: REPLY TO PODGORNYY CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT PODGORNYY. NEITHER THE DEPARTMENT NOR THE WHITE HOUSE PLAN TO RELEASE THE TEXT,BUT THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO ITS RELEASE BY THE SOVIETS.

2. QUOTE DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGE ON MY ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. I PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE ON CONTINUING TO DEVELOP PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THIS PROCESS CAN MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE QUEST FOR WORLD PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. PLEASE BE ASSURED OF MY FULL COMMITMENT TO THIS QUEST. SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD. UNQUOTE.

3. FYI: PODGORNYY'S MESSAGE READ QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: ACCEPT OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR ASSUMPTION OF THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. AS A RESULT
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OF THE MUTUAL EFFORTS OF OUR COUNTRIES, GREAT PROGRESS

HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD IMPROVING SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.
WE NOTE WITH PROFOUND SATISFACTION YOUR STATEMENT OF

AUGUST 9 ON YOUR INTENTION TO WORK FOR PEACE. WE ARE
CONFIDENT THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE
US WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP CONSTRUCTIVELY, TO THE
BENEFIT OF OUR PEOPLES AND IN THE INTERESTS OF
STRENGTHENING UNIVERSAL PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY. UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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